

**Testimony in SUPPORT of:**

Bill # **1017**: An Act Concerning Election Administration.

Bill # **6578**: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

Please help bring CT into alignment with other states in making voting convenient and accessible for ALL CT voters by voting **YES** in **SUPPORT** of bill number **1017: An Act Concerning Election Administration** to make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent and enable voters to request absentee ballots via an online application. Please also **SUPPORT** bill number **6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process** for automatic voter registration at the DMV and to restore voting rights to parolees.

I used the drop box to delivery my absentee ballot this year as did numerous people that I know. The US mail system has become quite slow. I knew that by using the drop box my ballot would be timely received. Plus, I dropped the ballot off during hours when my Town Hall was closed, so I found it very convenient. Since we have the drop boxes already in place, it seems sensible to allow voters to continue to use them.

Regarding requesting an absentee ballot, my son, who is at college out of state, does not have a printer. I had to print it out and mail it to him. Most states that I am familiar with allow voters to complete an application online. I know that controls can be put in place to match the reliability of online applications when compared to paper applications and would like to see that implemented. This should not be a multiple step process or require a person to have a printer or wait for a paper application through the mail or go to their town hall as their only options.

I also learned that many states have automatic voter registration where eligible voters are automatically registered to vote through their DMV location and other government offices. Our goal should be to get as many eligible voters as possible registered so that they can fully participate in our democracy.

Finally, parolees have served their time and should have their voting rights restored.

Sincerely,

Gail Berritt  
Westport, CT